

REMARKS**Introduction:**

This is the first action on the merits.

Claims 1-2 were filed.

All claims were examined.

In the instant Office Action, mailed June 7, 2007, all claims were rejected. There were objections to the claims and to the abstract. Applicant was reminded that small entity status is available.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her remarks in the telephone interview conducted on August 10, 2007 concerning claim format, the provision of antecedent basis, and the avoidance of new matter.

In this Response A, the abstract and claims are amended to place the instant application in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The abstract is amended responsive to the Examiner's objections concerning a previous two-paragraph format and to improve readability.

The claims are amended responsive to the Examiner's objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 112/1.

Amendments to the claims:

Original claims 1-2 are canceled.

New claims 3-19 address the Examiner's objections and art rejections.

New independent claim 3 recites a luggage case with external wheel having outer surface (all readily seen in the drawing) and a sheet sized and shaped to fit said outer surface of the wheel (described in original paragraph 0001, first two lines) having a first adhesive surface and a second, opposite adhesive surface (described by original paragraph 0001). New claims 4-9 depend from new independent claim 3.

New claim 4 recites that the sheet is provided with the luggage case and the adhesive surfaces are protected by removable coverings (described by original paragraph 0001).

New claim 5 recites that the first adhesive surface of the sheet is adhered to the outer surface of the wheel and the second adhesive surface is protected by a removable covering (described in the last sentence of paragraph 0001).

New claim 6 recites that the sheet is provided with the first adhesive surface protected by a removable covering and the second adhesive surface adhered to a personally selected item bearing an image (as described by original paragraphs 0001, 0003 and 0004).

New claim 7 recites that the image includes a photograph, school colors, or a flag (as described by original claim 1).

New claim 8 recites that the first adhesive surface of said sheet is adhered to the outer surface of the wheel and the second surface is adhered to a personally selected item bearing an image (as described by original paragraph 0001).

New claim 9 recites that the image includes a photograph, school colors, or a flag (as described in original claim 1).

New independent claim 10 recites a luggage case having an interior, a top, and a front (all shown in the original drawing or inherent in the drawn structure) and a flap, formed in the front, openable to provide access from outside the luggage case proximate the top, through the front of the luggage case, to the interior (described by original paragraph 0002, seventh line; drawing, Fig. 2, reference number 3). New claims 11-13 depend from new independent claim 10.

New claim 11 recites that the flap is zippered (as described by original paragraph 0002, second line).

New claim 12 recite that the flap extends on the front toward the top and has a top edge and left and right side edges (readily discernible in the drawing, Fig. 2, reference number 3).

New claim 13 recites a pocket attached to the flap (shown in the drawing, Fig. 2, reference number 2; described by original paragraph 0002, last sentence).

New claim 14 (method) recites the steps of providing a luggage case having an operatively attached external wheel, the wheel having an outer surface (as described in original paragraph 0001); providing with the luggage case a sheet, sized and shaped to fit the outer surface of the wheel, having a first adhesive surface protected by removable covering and a second, opposite adhesive surface also protected by removable covering; exposing the first adhesive surface; adhering the sheet to the outer surface of the wheel; exposing the second, opposite adhesive surface; providing a personally selected item bearing an image; and adhering the personally selected item to the second, opposite surface (as described by original paragraph 0001). New claim 15 depends from new independent claim 14.

New claim 15 recites that the luggage has an interior; a top; a front; and a flap, formed in the front, openable to provide access from outside the luggage case proximate the top, through the front of the

luggage case, to the interior, whereby the luggage is personalized and easily accessible (as described by original paragraphs 0001 and 0002). New claims 16-19 depend from new independent claim 10.

New claim 16 recites *an external wheel operatively attached to the luggage case, the wheel having an outer surface; and a sheet, sized and shaped to fit the outer surface of the wheel, having a first adhesive surface and a second, opposite adhesive surface (as described in original paragraph 0001).*

New claim 17 recites that the flap is zippered and extends from the front toward the top and has a top edge and left and right side edges; that a pocket is attached to the flap; and that the first adhesive surface of the sheet is adhered to the outer surface of the wheel and the second adhesive surface is protected by a removable covering (as described in original paragraphs 0001 and 0002).

New claim 18 recites that the flap is zippered and extends from the front toward the top and has a top edge and left and right side edges; that a pocket is attached to the flap; and that the first adhesive surface of the sheet is adhered to the outer surface of the wheel and the second surface is adhered to a personally selected item bearing an image (as described in original paragraphs 0001 and 0002).

New claim 19 recites that the image includes a photograph, school colors, or a flag (as described in original claim 1).

No new matter is added.

Amendments of the abstract:

In the Abstract:

The sole paragraph constituting the abstract is replaced responsive to the Examiner's objection to multiple paragraphs. The replacement paragraph references that an image such as a photograph, a flag, or school colors is affixed to the outer surface of a wheel attached to a luggage case (described in original paragraph 0001) whose interior is easily accessible through a zippered flap formed through the primary zippered entry cover of the luggage case, preferably at the upper end of the primary cover; a small pocket optionally being attached to the flap (described in original paragraph 0002). Accordingly, the amendment to the abstract is entirely supported by the original application as filed.

Detailed response to Examiner's Action:

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 1, abstract: the abstract is replaced..

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 2, small entity status: The applicant thanks the Examiner.

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 3, Rejection, 112/1, original claim (s) 1 (1-2): Original claims 1-2 are cancelled and new claims 3-19 are presented containing antecedent basis for all recited structure and steps including "wheel" and "luggage."

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 4-5, Rejection, 102(b), claim 1, image adhered to wheels:
New claim 3 recites a sheet, sized and shaped to fit said outer surface of said wheel, having a first adhesive surface and a second, opposite adhesive surface. Miles discloses a sheet of six adhesive labels, a different structure, and therefore does not anticipate new claim 3. New claims 4-9 and 14-19 incorporate the limitations of new claim 3 and therefore are likewise not anticipated by Miles, the first and second adhesive surfaces in combination with the removable covering(s) not being described by Miles.

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 6, Rejection, 102(b), claim 2, easy access through flap:
New claim 10 recites "a flap, formed in said front, openable to provide access from outside said luggage case proximate said top, through said front of said luggage case, to said interior." Godshaw discloses a zippered openable front, a different structure, and therefore does not anticipate new claim 10. New claims 11-14 and 15-19 include the limitations of new claim 10 and therefore are likewise not anticipated by Godshaw. New claims 16-19 recite luggage having both the easy access and the personalization aspects of the present invention, a combination not described by Godshaw.

Responsive to Examiner's paragraph 7, format, Certificate of Mailing: The Applicant thanks the Examiner.

Conclusion:

Having amended the abstract and claims, the Applicant believes the instant application to be in condition for allowance. No new matter is added. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the examiner find that any matter herein calls for revision or clarification, the Applicant requests the courtesy of a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____

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